

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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3  
4 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

5 TO SCREEN CANDIDATES  
6 FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES  
7

8  
9 S C R E E N I N G S

10  
11  
12 DATE: Wednesday, November 20, 2013

13 TIME: 1:30 p.m.

14 LOCATION: 209 Gressette Building

1101 Pendleton Street

15 Columbia, South Carolina

16 REPORTED BY: DEBORAH L. DUSSELJEE

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1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.

4 SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

5 SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PETER M. McCOY, JR.

7 SENATOR J. YANCEY MCGILL

8 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. WHITMIRE

9  
10  
11 ALSO PRESENT:

12  
13 MARTHA CASTO, Staff

14 JULIE PRICE, Staff

1 1:32 p.m.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I would like to call  
3 the meeting to order. This is a meeting of the Joint  
4 Legislative Committee to Screen Candidates for College  
5 and University Boards of Trustees. I would like to go  
6 ahead and get started.

7 To my right, Representative Whitmire serves on  
8 the Committee with us. He represents the House of  
9 Representatives today. Some of the others couldn't make  
10 it.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: They got lost.

12 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Then we have Senator  
13 Tom Alexander, Senator Yancey McGill, and Senator Wes  
14 Hayes. I'm Harvey Peeler. I would like to welcome  
15 everyone.

16 First, under Tab A, we have Connie Dittrich  
17 from Daniel Island, the Old Exchange Building Commission  
18 at-large seat that expires 2018.

19 Ms. Dittrich, if you would, come forward, take  
20 a seat, and make sure your green light is burning. If  
21 you push that, that turns your microphone on.

22 Is it burning?

23 MS. DITTRICH: It is.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good. I can hear  
25 you. Welcome, Ms. Dittrich. I will tell you, before we

1     get started, I need to swear you in. So if you would,  
2     please raise your right hand.

3             Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole,  
4     truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

5             MS. DITTRICH: I do.

6             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Welcome again.

7             If you would like to share with the Committee  
8     why you would like to serve on the Old Exchange Building  
9     Commission.

10            MS. DITTRICH: Thank you for having me. I am  
11     very desirous of serving on the Old Exchange Building  
12     Commission -- board for a couple of different reasons.

13            The first is because I have known about it  
14     most of my life. My mom grew up in Charleston, and I  
15     visited the city for my whole life, although, of course,  
16     it wasn't open for visitors when I was a little girl, 60  
17     years ago. But it's an icon, historical icon, in the  
18     city, and I would like to help be able to preserve that  
19     in any way that I can. That's my first reason.

20            The second reason is that Charleston is such a  
21     gem, and I make my living there, and I think that being  
22     able to, you know, know that one of the important area  
23     -- one of the important tourist attractions in our city,  
24     in that city, is well taken care of, is something that,  
25     you know, we can all know is being taken care of. And I

1 am anxious to be able to contribute to that.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, ma'am.

3 Any questions from members of the Committee?

4 I didn't ask you. Do you have --

5 MS. CASTO: Mr. Chairman, I do want to let  
6 y'all know, the Old Exchange Building has three members  
7 that are elected by the General Assembly. There are two  
8 seats that are up in January, and there are two at-large  
9 seats. So Ms. Dittrich is an at-large candidate.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Very good.

11 Well, I appreciate your willingness to serve.  
12 What's the desire of the Committee?

13 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable report.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a  
15 favorable report.

16 Is there a second?

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: A second is heard.

19 All in favor, raise your right hand; and it is  
20 unanimous.

21 Thank you.

22 Now we have Laura Kennedy LeGrand.

23 Good afternoon.

24 MS. LeGRAND: Good afternoon.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your

1 appearance.

2 If you would, please raise your right hand.

3 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
4 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

5 MS. LeGRAND: I do.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to  
7 share with the Committee why you would like to serve?

8 MS. LeGRAND: Yes, I would. I have served on  
9 the Commission before. I was on the Commission for 12  
10 years for the National Society, Daughters of the  
11 American Revolution.

12 When I resigned from the DAR, of course, I  
13 lost my seat from the Commission and I miss it a whole  
14 lot. I just love it. I have heard of the Old Exchange  
15 as long as I have been in the DAR, and I was very  
16 fortunate to be elected to the Commission through the  
17 DAR. And we have done a lot of good things down there,  
18 and there are a lot of good things still going on.

19 I would like to see the Old Exchange  
20 recognized nationwide, not just by the State of South  
21 Carolina. And if I can get back on there, I would  
22 strive to put us in the forefront, along with  
23 Independence Hall and Faneuil Hall.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Very good.

25 Questions, comments?

1           Staff, do you have anything you would like to  
2   add or ask?

3           MS. CASTO: No, sir. I think she told you she  
4   has been on the Commission. She chaired the Old  
5   Exchange Commission.

6           MS. LeGRAND: Yes.

7           MS. CASTO: And she -- you did say that you  
8   were retired. Where are you retired from?

9           MS. LeGRAND: Well, I resigned from DAR. No,  
10   I have been fortunate in that I have never worked. I  
11   have been a stay-at-home mom pretty much.

12          MS. CASTO: Great. Thank you.

13          CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Trust me, that's  
14   work.

15          MS. LeGRAND: That's work.

16          CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire has a  
17   question or comment.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,  
19   Mr. Chairman.

20          Mrs. LeGrand, can you tell me where sources of  
21   funding come from for the Old Exchange Building?

22          MS. LeGRAND: Right now, the Exchange -- of  
23   course, I have not been on for two years, but I  
24   understand they are still doing well.

25          Right now we are independent; but according to

1     our lease, the State of South Carolina is supposed to  
2     support us; but we are no longer an item on the budget.

3             REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, hopefully that  
4     will change.

5             MS. LeGRAND: Oh, I hope.

6             REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I just wanted to let  
7     you know that the DAR school is in my district. I just  
8     want to say thank you for everyone associated with the  
9     DAR for keeping it going. It is a wonderful school.

10            MS. LeGRAND: Thank you. Tamassee is a  
11     wonderful school.

12            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy  
13     is here.

14            Welcome, sir.

15            REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Thank you, Mr.  
16     Chairman. Good to be here.

17            REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Maybe you don't wear  
18     a watch.

19            REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Tell the judge that  
20     where I was.

21            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: That's called House  
22     time.

23            REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: That's right.

24            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Well, my daughter is  
25     going in or going through the process to become a member



1 of the DAR. I'm glad she did that because she shared  
2 with me my ancestry, and I didn't find out until about a  
3 month ago, Senator from York, that my fifth granddaddy  
4 back was Colonel Frederick Hambright who was a  
5 revolutionary war hero that fought at the Battle at  
6 Kings Mountain.

7 MS. LeGRAND: You need to be in the SAR.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I have an old picture I  
9 will get you.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay, good.

11 That's what she said.

12 What's the desire of the Committee?

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Motion for a  
14 favorable report.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Seconded.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Seconded.

17 All in favor raise your right hand.

18 It's unanimous.

19 You are found to be qualified.

20 MS. LeGRAND: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, ma'am.

22 I tell you, I know the next -- we are supposed  
23 to have Francis Marion, but I would like to skip to the  
24 South Carolina State University Fifth Congressional  
25 District. So if there is no objection, we will go to

1       those now. South Carolina State, Fifth Congressional  
2       District, under Tab E.

3                REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And then we will  
4       come back to it?

5                CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Then we will come  
6       back to it.

7                Tab E, Tammy Adams Kelly from Sumter.

8                Ms. Kelly.

9                Welcome.

10               MS. KELLY: Thank you.

11               CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: If you would, please  
12       raise your right hand.

13               Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
14       truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

15               MS. KELLY: Yes, sir.

16               CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17               Would you like to share with the Committee why  
18       you would like to serve on the South Carolina State  
19       Board?

20               MS. KELLY: I sure would. Thank you for  
21       allowing me the opportunity to share with you today.

22               My desire to be on the board stems from a  
23       long, long history of love and passion for South  
24       Carolina State University through my husband, who is a  
25       1986 proud bulldog. I also have two children who are

1 matriculating at South Carolina State University, and  
2 that love that they exude for the university is just  
3 phenomenal, and seeing what they have accomplished as  
4 young people at the university is just awesome.

5 Now, with the leadership at the university, I  
6 think my role as a board member would be to help make  
7 sure that the university is there for the next 100  
8 years. What is going on today will magnify itself in  
9 growth and development for the university.

10 And I would like to use my leadership skills  
11 to help grow the university and retain students so that  
12 it will be there forever.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

14 Questions or comments from members of the  
15 Committee?

16 Mr. McCoy.

17 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 Ms. Kelly, I appreciate your time and  
20 appreciate you coming in front of us today, and I  
21 appreciate your willingness to serve as well.

22 Can I ask you a brief question about your -- I  
23 understand that you serve on the Sumter County Economics  
24 Development Board.

25 MS. KELLY: Yes.

1           REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: What does that mean?

2           MS. KELLY: My service on the economic  
3   development board, I'm a board member on the board, and  
4   this is my second term. And basically I help our  
5   executive -- our executive for our development board --  
6   well, the development for Sumter County, ensure that  
7   Sumter is number one on the minds of anyone who wants to  
8   do business in South Carolina. And we help ensure that  
9   happens by working with our board and also our executive  
10  director for economic development.

11           And if you have not -- I'm sure you have heard  
12  about our huge investment in our economy by Continental  
13  Tire. We are on -- the one in Sumter, and it is because  
14  of what we do as a board.

15           REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: I think that's  
16  excellent work, and I am aware of that. So that's kudos  
17  to your board for bringing Continental Tire to town.

18           Is that a position that is -- and just because  
19  I don't know, is it something appointed by your local  
20  delegation or county council? How does that work?

21           MS. KELLY: I'm actually appointed by our  
22  mayor. I am the city representative on the board, and  
23  it is a volunteer position.

24           REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Perfect. I think that  
25  your qualifications with the economic development board

1 would be a huge asset to the board here as well. So  
2 thank you for offering your services.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

4 Martha indicates that would not be dual  
5 office.

6 MS. CASTO: Since she is appointed by the  
7 mayor.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good afternoon.

10 I'm reading your statement, and it talks about  
11 access to public education. How do you think your  
12 serving on the board, you can help young people have  
13 access to higher education?

14 MS. KELLY: Sure.

15 Access to public education, we take for  
16 granted that everyone has a -- everyone does have an  
17 opportunity to attend an university. However, the  
18 university has to be available and accessible to  
19 students.

20 I grew up in a very rural area. I grew up in  
21 Dorchester County; and of course, I live in Sumter  
22 County now. But as a young girl growing up and not  
23 having very much, I did not know -- and also being the  
24 first person from my family to actually attend  
25 college -- I graduated from the University of South

1 Carolina. And my passion has always been that I do not  
2 want to see someone who has the opportunity and missed  
3 the opportunity to go to college. Like -- and I know  
4 you -- you saw my statement. And I told you about my  
5 father.

6 My father was a brilliant man; and had he had  
7 that opportunity to go through to college, he would have  
8 gone. And I think that there are a lot of children who  
9 are missing that opportunity because without -- without  
10 having the proper counseling and access. That  
11 university -- South Carolina State University needs to  
12 be in Orangeburg and it needs to stay there because of  
13 the community that benefits from it.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Hayes has a  
16 comment or question.

17 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Thank you. I appreciate your willingness to  
19 serve on the board. I am sure you are aware because of  
20 your history with the board, recently South Carolina  
21 State has had some problems. The -- I think there have  
22 been some charges that have ended up in some criminal  
23 charges down there with some of the administrators or  
24 board members. I think all the incumbents were defeated  
25 this past year when they came up for election down at

1 the board, which is most unusual in the General  
2 Assembly.

3 What do you see as your role as -- if you are  
4 elected as a board member in relation to the  
5 administration? And that's the first part of that.

6 The second is, What do you think needs to be  
7 done to keep South Carolina State moving in the right  
8 direction?

9 MS. KELLY: Well, I will answer the first part  
10 of the question first.

11 The first thing that needs to be done,  
12 obviously, is to support the administration, support  
13 what President Elzey is doing. And the number one  
14 problem right now -- obviously there are a lot of budget  
15 concerns there -- is money.

16 You know what? I run a business. I run my  
17 own business. There are always going to be challenges,  
18 and I like to say, Challenges are opportunities. But  
19 number one, as a board member, I would like to see that  
20 the school focus on making sure that they grow the  
21 student enrollment -- it can be done -- and also work  
22 towards those efforts as far as retaining those students  
23 that are there.

24 It's a wonderful opportunity, and the story  
25 just needs to be told.

1 I understand what's happened with the --  
2 what's happened in the past. Every organization goes  
3 through bad times. That's the reality of it. That's  
4 the reality, but now it's time to move forward and  
5 really, really work towards making it the place that it  
6 can be.

7 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: I will move for a favorable  
10 report.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion for a  
12 favorable report.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Seconded.

15 All right. Any other questions? We are ready  
16 to vote.

17 All in favor raise your right hand.

18 Thank you. Unanimous.

19 MS. KELLY: Thank you so much.

20 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your  
21 willingness to serve.

22 Ms. Redish is not here yet, so let's go back  
23 to Francis Marion, Tab C. Mary Mappus Finklea, At-Large  
24 Seat Number 9.

25 Is the green light still shining?



1 MS. FINKLEA: It is.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Welcome.

3 Please raise your right hand.

4 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
5 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

6 MS. FINKLEA: I do.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to  
8 share with the Committee why you would like to serve on  
9 the Francis Marion Board?

10 MS. FINKLEA: Yes, I would. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 Good afternoon. It is a joy to be here with  
13 you today. To answer in a word, civic duty. I feel  
14 that it is important to be engaged in your community. I  
15 live in Florence, and this is hometown territory in the  
16 sense that what happens on the campus is -- affects the  
17 community. I feel like public education affects us all  
18 and that we want the best for Francis Marion.

19 I am excited about the new partnership with  
20 Mt. Pleasant as we continue to think about growing and  
21 expanding. So it is a nice time to see how the vision  
22 of the board can really connect with people on the  
23 ground and make a difference in the lives of others.

24 I appreciated what the other lady spoke about  
25 just a moment ago, about first-generation college

1 students. Francis Marion, of course, engages people  
2 who -- many of which might not normally be heading to a  
3 college or university setting. We do that well, and I'm  
4 excited about seeing how we can continue to excel.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

7 Questions or comments?

8 I always feel a right strange, I guess,  
9 swearing in a pastor; but you answered it quite well.

10 MS. FINKLEA: That's right.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Oh, me.

12 No questions or comments?

13 What's the desire of the Committee?

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable.

15 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is for a  
17 favorable report. A second is heard.

18 All in favor raise your right hand.

19 It is unanimous.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. FINKLEA: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Now we will go back to South Carolina  
23 State University, Fifth Congressional District, under Tab F,  
24 Ms. Carlotta Denise Redish.

25 Ms. Redish, if you would, come forward.

26 Is your green light burning?

1 MS. REDISH: Yes, it is.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good. If you would,  
3 take a seat.

4 Welcome. If you would, please raise your  
5 right hand.

6 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
7 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

8 MS. REDISH: I do.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Would you like to share with the Committee why  
11 you would like to serve on the South Carolina State  
12 Board?

13 MS. REDISH: Yes, but first let me say, thank  
14 you, Chairman and fellow committee members, for  
15 affording me this opportunity to participate in the  
16 screening process.

17 I am a life-long educator. I was born and  
18 raised in Cherokee County. I got -- I received a great  
19 education there. And when I was approached to apply to  
20 serve on the board at South Carolina State University, I  
21 thought long and hard about it because I'm familiar with

1     what has been going on at the university. But I do  
2     believe that my educational and professional experiences  
3     will add value to that board.

4             I have served in various administrative  
5     capacities in public school districts in South Carolina  
6     and larger urban school districts in Los Angeles and  
7     Atlanta before returning back to South Carolina. And I  
8     came back here because I love Gaffney. I'm from  
9     Gaffney, and that's my home.

10            Also, professionally, I have had the  
11     opportunity to manage and direct and supervise  
12     personnel, maintenance, finance, food services,  
13     custodial and other departments. So I really do believe  
14     that those experiences, combined together and in working  
15     collaboratively in conjunction with the other board  
16     members in an effort to adhere to existing policies,  
17     will prove to add value to the university.

18            But more importantly, I want to say that the  
19     -- my successes that have come to me professionally, I  
20     did not achieve the positions that I served by myself.  
21     I have been successful through working collaboratively  
22     together with my peers and educators across this state.

23            I have served on the Executive Committee for  
24     the Instructional Leaders Roundtable for SCASA, and  
25     that's a position that I was approached about running

1     for, and my peers in those positions across the 85 (sic)  
2     counties here elected me to that position.

3             I have also served and was elected to serve as  
4     president of the Personnel Roundtable for the Old  
5     English Consortium which meets -- we used to meet in  
6     York. That's composed of Chesterfield, Lancaster, Rock  
7     Hill, York, Cherokee, Clover, and Fort Mill.

8             So I have experienced a great deal of  
9     successes in the realm of education, but it's been  
10    through the encouragement and with the support of my  
11    peers and through working together with them.

12            I have also been approached and had the  
13    privilege of serving on communities for several local  
14    colleges. Primarily I was on the advisory board for  
15    Spartanburg Community College. At that time Dr. Para  
16    Jones was the president. I also served on an advisory  
17    committee at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

18            So I do believe that I will add value to the  
19    board. I do believe that my professional and  
20    educational experiences will enable me to make impartial  
21    and very well-informed decisions as we strive -- should  
22    I get the seat, as we strive to return South Carolina  
23    State University to the status that it once had.

24            And that university was once a -- a stellar  
25    university in this state, and it was very, very well

1       respected throughout these United States. It is still a  
2       good school where you have dedicated facility and staff  
3       members there who are doing a good job. They are  
4       working very hard. And to put it in the words of former  
5       Supreme Court -- United States Supreme Court Justice  
6       Thurgood Marshall, I believe they are doing the best  
7       they can with what they have. And I would love to have  
8       the opportunity again to participate in the governing  
9       process there on that university by serving on the board  
10      of trustees.

11               CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

12               Any questions or comments?

13               Mr. Whitmire.

14               REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for your  
15      willingness to serve.

16               I'd like to thank both of you ladies. It is  
17      really a pleasure to have, in my opinion, outstanding  
18      candidates for SC State. They have been needing some  
19      good leadership for quite awhile. It is kind of a shame  
20      -- I wish both of you were running for separate seats.

21               CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I was thinking the  
22      same thing.

23               REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Let me ask you  
24      something else.

25               Are you familiar with the inner workings of SC

1 State? Why do you think it went from up here to down  
2 here, in your opinion?

3 MS. REDISH: Well, I reviewed the SACS  
4 accreditation report. I'm currently reviewing a SACS  
5 review team. We might be looking at a school in the  
6 district of Hilton Head Island in March of next year.

7 I looked at the findings in the report, and  
8 the report cited board governance issues. And I think  
9 the most important thing for any board member within any  
10 institution or any organization, the thing that we have  
11 to keep in mind is that each board member has a vote,  
12 and that one vote does not constitute any unequal level  
13 of power. That one vote's -- that one vote gives us  
14 leeway and insight to work collaboratively together as a  
15 cohesive team to -- to meet our mission and our goals  
16 that have been established and are stated in the  
17 strategic plans.

18 You know, a strategic plan is just a road map  
19 that looks at where the university has been, where they  
20 are now, and where they are going. And I have looked at  
21 and I'm very familiar with the history of South Carolina  
22 State University.

23 It's -- that school has produced some of the  
24 most famous people in these United States. We have  
25 brigadier generals that have come out of State, and one

1 I know personally. We used to bowl and skate together,  
2 and he went in the military.

3 And he said, Carlotta, I am going to be a  
4 general one day. Lo and behold, we know he just  
5 retired. He's a brigadier general that has just  
6 retired. We have Supreme Court justices that came out  
7 of that university.

8 So somewhere along the way, we've gone from  
9 being at the top of the list and being very, very  
10 stellar to -- I'm sorry, to losing sight of the mission.

11 The mission is providing those students with  
12 the very, very best possible education and working  
13 together cohesively and as one unit to further meet the  
14 goals of that university, particularly by adhering to  
15 policy.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17 MS. REDISH: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Following up, I was already thinking about it  
21 when you said that last word, "policy."

22 MS. REDISH: Yes.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: The board sets policy.

24 Is it appropriate for a board to have any  
25 other -- what is your view of any other role that the



1 board has as far as the day-to-day operation of the  
2 university?

3 MS. REDISH: Yes, sir.

4 It's the president's responsibility.

5 President Elzey, it is his responsibility to manage the  
6 daily operations of South Carolina State University.

7 That is what I call his sand box.

8 And then in the other sand box, you have board  
9 members who are charged with developing, implementing  
10 and addressing policy. They work with the president in  
11 identifying policy and working with him to adhere to  
12 those policies that have been established. But board  
13 members, again, they are to work cohesively together in  
14 the establishment, creation and adherence to of board  
15 policies.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: With your experience in  
17 the public school system and from that standpoint, is --  
18 is it your thoughts then that any communication to --  
19 regarding the university should go through the president  
20 rather than directly with other folks throughout the  
21 university system?

22 MS. REDISH: Yes. There is -- I do believe in  
23 following protocol because -- in doing so, if we all do  
24 that and we stay in our -- we stay in our lane and we  
25 follow protocol, then we will avoid the pitfalls that

1       come often with miscommunication, misdirected  
2       communications.

3               The president, again, is charged with managing  
4       the daily operations. And communications should go to  
5       the president and from the president to the board. And  
6       specifically, the president of the board and the  
7       president of the university should be, in essence,  
8       hooked at the hip because they should be able to  
9       communicate any time of the day regarding any matter or  
10      any situation without being pressured or influenced to  
11      sway their true thoughts and feelings and ideals  
12      regarding any particular matter at hand.

13             SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill,  
15      anybody else?

16             As the screening committee, our charge is to  
17      sift through the candidates, I guess.

18             MS. REDISH: Yes.

19             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And one thing, it is  
20      not just you, but several of our candidates for these  
21      boards of trustees, their driving record.

22             I see where you had five speeding tickets,  
23      young lady.

24             MS. REDISH: Oh, did I?

25             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: From '08 to '12.

1 MS. REDISH: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I know that  
3 shouldn't have a bearing on how you are going to vote or  
4 if you are fortunate enough to be elected. But -- and  
5 we have talked about this before. How many is too many?  
6 Is two too many? Is three?

7 MS. REDISH: But I can explain.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Explain.

9 MS. REDISH: I recently purchased a new car,  
10 and my goal was not to buy a fast car. I wanted to buy  
11 an efficient car that had a luxury feel and economical  
12 car for me and my daughter. Well, that car, it turned  
13 out to be a very fast car. So I think two of the  
14 tickets I obtained were within the first -- well, one,  
15 first three weeks or a month within purchasing that car.

16 The second explanation I have, and I will give  
17 you a good example. One night I was leaving from a  
18 revival in the Duncan, Lyman, Wellford area. And I was  
19 in a church, leaving a church that was out in a rural  
20 area that I was not accustomed to, and I had just  
21 changed my contact lenses to multi-lens, where one is  
22 for distance and one is for vision. And I just -- it  
23 was in a dark area and no lights, and I didn't come to a  
24 complete stop at a railway crossing.

25 And then the other tickets were -- excuse me.

1     The other tickets I got in my travels from meetings  
2     across the state, and sometimes I just -- I didn't  
3     remember where the speed traps were.

4             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I understand.

5             MS. REDISH: Not speed traps, but I just  
6     didn't recall where you would have a high population of  
7     highway patrolmen sitting and monitoring those areas.

8             CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I understand.

9             Most of them is in Senator McGill's district.

10            SENATOR MCGILL: You would have been better  
11    off to say I have a heavy foot.

12            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Well, I was going to  
13    say, that fast car, you know, it don't move unless you  
14    put your foot on the gas.

15            But anyway, that's the only thing I found I  
16    had to fuss at you about.

17            MS. REDISH: I am sorry. I apologize.

18            REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Slow down.

19            MS. REDISH: I haven't had a ticket in a  
20    while, though.

21            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: What's the desire of  
22    the Committee?

23            REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Move as favorable.

24            CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a  
25    favorable report.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE:   Second.

2           CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER:   A second is heard.

3           All in favor raise your right hand.

4           And it is unanimous.

5           Thank you for your willingness to serve.   I

6   will echo Mr. Whitmire's comment.   I wish both of you

7   would serve.

8           REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE:   The one that is not

9   successful, please reapply.

10          MS. CASTO:   Two at-large seats coming up.

11          REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE:   Two at-large coming

12   up, so remember that.

13          CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER:   It is refreshing to

14   know that we have candidates of y'all's caliber.

15   Really, true.

16          MS. REDISH:   Thank you very much.

17          REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE:   Very encouraging.

18          CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER:   Subject to the call

19   of the chair, we will stand adjourned.

20          (The screenings adjourned at about 2:56 p.m.)

21

22

23

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  
2

3 I, Deborah L. Dusseljee, Registered Professional  
4 Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South  
5 Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

6 That the foregoing screenings were taken before me  
7 on the date and at the time and location stated on the  
8 title page of this transcript; that the candidates were  
9 duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and  
10 nothing but the truth by the Chairman; that the  
11 testimony of the candidates and all comments made at the  
12 time of the screenings were recorded stenographically by  
13 me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing  
14 screenings as typed is a true, accurate and complete  
15 record of the hearing to the best of my ability.

16 I further certify that I am neither related to nor  
17 counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested  
18 in the events thereof.

19 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my  
20 official seal this 3rd day of January, 2014, at  
21 Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.  
22  
23  
24  
25

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Deborah L. Dusseljee, RPR  
Notary Public  
State of South Carolina at Large  
My Commission expires:  
June 4, 2017

## I N D E X

## PAGE

## CANDIDATES FOR OLD EXCHANGE BUILDING COMMISSION

## Two At-Large Seats - Expire 2018

CONNOLLY "CONNIE" D. DITTRICH

3

LAURA KENNEDY LeGRAND

5

## CANDIDATE FOR FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

## At-Large Seat 9 - Expires 2016

MARY MAPPUS FINKLEA

16

## CANDIDATES FOR SC STATE UNIVERSITY

## Fifth Congressional District - Expires 2017

TAMMY ADAMS KELLY

10

CARLOTTA DENISE REDISH

18

## Certificate of Reporter

30